



## **WESTMINSTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**

### **City Council Chambers**

### **Tuesday – August 31, 2010**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Westminster Traffic Commission was called to order by Chairman Hamade on Tuesday, August 31, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 8200 Westminster Boulevard, Westminster, California.

#### **SALUTE TO FLAG**

Chairman Hamade led the members of the audience in the Salute to the Flag.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Hamade, Fisher, Nguyen and Cruz.

Commissioners Absent: Robbins.

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Adolfo Ozaeta, Civil Engineering Associate; Sergeant Nye, Westminster Police Department; and Veronica Johnson, Secretary.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Traffic Commission's regular meeting of June 29, 2010 were approved by Commissioner Cruz, seconded by Chairman Hamade (4-0).

#### **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED**

The first item to be considered at this evening's meeting was T.C. 74-169, Staff Proposal to Install Parking Restrictions on the North and South sides of 13<sup>th</sup> Street west of Beach Boulevard.

#### **T.C. 74-169 13<sup>th</sup> Street**

Mr. Ozaeta explained that staff assessed Mayor Rice's request to observe the traffic and parking conditions at 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Beach Boulevard. The existing lane markings at this intersection cause confusion to the motorists.

Staff's investigation concluded that the eastbound and westbound striping consisted of a left/through and a right only lane. The opposite side of the street is striped a double yellow with no lane designations.

Staff observed that the vehicles lined up in the number one lane appeared to be exclusive left hand turners, while in view of the drivers in the opposite direction, these vehicles assumed they were also exclusive left hand turners. In

reality, these vehicles could have been performing a through movement, which could cause conflict in the middle of the intersection.

**STAFF'S**

**RECOMMENDATION** Staff's recommendation for the best operational conditions for the subject location is installation of left turn pockets and through right markings in the number two lane on the north and south side of 13<sup>th</sup> Street west of Beach Boulevard.

Mr. Ozaeta explained the lengthy process in order to come into an agreement with the Deputy Director of CalTrans for modifications. The terms included enhanced parking restrictions and transit ADA compliancy on the northwest and southwest ramps.

**MOTION**

Vice Chairman Fisher moved to approve staff's recommendation; seconded by Chairman Hamade.

**VOTE**

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Robbins being absent.

**T.C. 74-186**

**Eng/Traffic Survey**

The second item for discussion was T.C. 74-186, City of Westminster Engineering and Traffic Survey.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that the traffic survey should be conducted every five to ten years on every corridor that the City intends to enforce via radar. The speeds in the City are established based on the California Vehicle Code and the existing speed survey enforced currently is from 2004; therefore, the item is up for a renewal.

Mr. Ozaeta discussed the different elements required in the study. Staff accessed the prevailing speeds on all roadways by segmenting the City in 91 half mile segments. Staff then studied the random sample of speeds during non-peak hours with 100 samples taken per 91 segments. The data collected found the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed per segment. The assessment considered the weather, existing speed limits, number of lanes, daily traffic volume, medians, on-street parking, bike lanes, sidewalks, driveways, bus stops, truck routes, schools, parks, mid-blocks, crosswalks, commercial and residential land use.

Mr. Ozaeta referred to segment 32 of the Accident Survey Analysis, Garden Grove between Hoover and Beach, for further clarification. This particular survey included 102

vehicles and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was figured at 42 mph. The state mandates require rounding off to the nearest 5mph increment; therefore, 40 mph would be the recommendation. Reduction to 35 mph could be proposed if the traffic engineer and police department found conditions not readily apparent to the drivers. Additionally, accident data was collected over a two year period to calculate the accident and expected accident ratios. If the accident rate exceeded the expected accident rate, justification could be used for an additional 5mph reduction.

#### **STAFF'S**

**RECOMMENDATION** Staff's Recommendation consisted of five locations for modifications of the speed limit. They are as follows:

1. Bolsa Ave. from Edwards St. to Goldenwest St.  
Recommendation: Decreased from 45 mph to 40 mph
2. Bolsa Ave. from Beach Blvd. to Newland St.  
Recommendation: Increased from 35 mph to 40 mph
3. Bolsa Chica Rd. from Garden Grove Blvd. to Westminster Blvd.  
Recommendation: Increased from 45 mph to 50 mph
4. McFadden Ave. from Goldenwest St. to Gothard St.  
Recommendation: Increased from 40 mph to 45 mph
5. Ward St. from McFadden Ave. to Edinger Ave.  
Recommendation: Increased from 35 mph to 40 mph

Vice Chairman Fisher stated she was very impressed with the study and Commissioner Nguyen thanked staff for performing the study as he receives numerous calls from the community questioning the differences in speeds between the cities.

Mr. Ozaeta explained that the studies are typically done every five years and staff decided to wait on new legislation before implementation.

Sergeant Nye explained the vehicle code does not allow enforcement using radar or lidar guns without a current survey within a seven year period. This engineering study will help officers when people are fighting a ticket. Officers typically issue a ticket for 15 mph over the 85 percentile.

#### **MOTION**

Chairman Hamade moved to approve staff's recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Cruz.

#### **VOTE**

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Robbins being absent.

**T.C. 10-106**  
**Bishop Place**

The third item for discussion was T.C. 10-106, Assessment of proposed on-street parking stalls on the south side of Bishop Place between Magnolia Street and Bushard Street.

Mr. Ozaeta explained City Manager, Don Lamm, requested staff to perform an assessment of parking conditions on subject location to investigate the feasibility of markings stalls to curb the use of parking spaces by tour buses.

Residents on the south side of Bishop and commercial businesses to the north side of Bishop essentially need the parking space to be available for vehicles rather than tour buses.

A two hour limit sign was installed approximately five years ago to overcome the previous complaints of motorists parking their vehicles for 24-72 hours at a time. As a result, cars were not parked overnight; however, this did not resolve the issue of the tour buses as they still occupy this area for a drop off and pick up location. Additional complaints received from residents included trash being left on the sidewalks, their yards and the noise consumption from the tour bus motors running for hours to keep their air conditioning flowing in the duration of people entering and exiting the bus.

Staff assisted in brokering a deal between the casino buses and Saigon City Market Place for their tour buses to park in their lot; consequently, this may not last long due to previous experience with ABC Market.

A second option would be to install a five foot red curb segment every 36 feet along the south side of Bishop Street as the larger buses range from 38 – 40 feet, with citations being \$47.00. On the other hand, this would reduce 13 parking spaces and shift traffic to the north side of the street. If markings were placed on both sides of the streets, this would further reduce 25 spaces.

Most effectively, a third option would be to establish an ordinance addressing these parking violations city-wide. Violation fines would be \$100.00 for the first, \$200.00 for the second, \$300.00 for the third and \$400.00 for the last offense.

**STAFF'S**

**RECOMMENDATION** Staff's recommendation is to bring back option number three after it has been finalized with the City Attorney.

Chairman Hamade questioned stored vehicles and Sergeant Nye explained that he is presently working on an ordinance addressing commercial vehicles parked in districts within the city that are loading or unloading merchandise; however, this does not include loading and unloading of passengers. He would like for the ordinance to specifically address the parked trucks, for no other purpose but to park and commercial vehicles including buses being prohibited from picking up and dropping off people on any of the city streets. This ordinance will not affect businesses conducting their operations and will also prevent RVs from parking along the city streets. Once this has been revised, it will be brought back to the Commission for approval.

Several residents spoke in favor of option number three.

Thomas Dan, tenant of Weststate, spoke on the subject matter. He would like to see a compromise between the City and the tour buses as the buses bring business and tourism into the City. Mr. Dan does not believe that the buses are the problem; he believes the problem is the people who park their cars on the streets. An option may be to charge the buses a monthly licensing and permit fee to create income for the City once a loading and unloading zone is in place. He further explained that one of the tour buses is paying a monthly fee of \$2,000.00 to the 13 owners of ABC Supermarket to load and unload passengers on their lot.

Discussion ensued among the Commission.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Cruz motioned that he would like to bring back item T.C. 10-106 with established ordinances, including options at a future date for consideration, seconded by Vice Chairman Fisher.

**VOTE**

The motion was carried by a 4-0 vote

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Johnson informed that the City presents service pins for milestone achievements for the first, fifth, tenth year and etc. She awarded Commissioner Nguyen a service pin and stated she would award Commissioner Robbins his pin at a future meeting.

Commissioners discussed alternate bus parking throughout City.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There were no "Old Business" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**INFORMATION  
AND REPORTS**

There were no "Information and Reports" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ORAL  
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Oral Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**WRITTEN  
COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no "Written Communications" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS  
COMMISSIONERS  
MAY WISH TO  
DISCUSS**

There were no "Items Commissioner may wish to Discuss" items presented to the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**ITEMS STAFF MAY  
WISH TO DISCUSS**

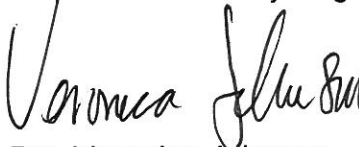
Mr. Ozaeta informed the Commission that the next meeting would be light and he would like the Commission to tour the Traffic Management Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marwan Youssef  
Public Works Director/City Engineer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica Johnson", written over the printed name.

By: Veronica Johnson  
Secretary